

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AS-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 NEA-10 EUR-12

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NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /101 W

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R 171400Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2517

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

USUN NEW YORK 438

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR, UNGA

SUBJECT: ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION: OFFICIAL BRAZILIAN EXPLANATION OF
ITS VOTE; CRITICISM WITHIN BRAZIL CONTINUES AND FOCUSES ON
FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: BRASILIA 9565

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY ON NOVEMBER 11
RELEASED STATEMENT JUSTIFYING ITS VOTE ON THE ANTI-
ZIONIST RESOLUTION. CRITICISM OF THE BRAZILIAN VOTE
AND RECENT BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS CONTINUES
IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS WITH INCREASED FOCUS ON FOREIGN
MINISTER AS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR UNPOPULAR
POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON NOVEMBER 11 RELEASED
STATEMENT READ BY BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR TO UN JUSTIFYING
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BRAZIL'S VOTE IN FAVOR OF ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION.

PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE IN STATEMENT ARE: (A) BRAZILIAN VOTE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS HOSTILE TO JEWS OR JUDAISM. BRAZIL FULLY RECOGNIZES THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF JEWS AND IS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO RACISM. (B) BRAZIL REPUDIATES RACISM AND RACIST IDEAS. BRAZILIAN SOLDIERS SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN EUROPE FIGHTING AGAINST NAZI-FASCISM AND ITS GENOCIDAL PRACTICES. (C) IN BRAZIL THERE IS NO LEGAL, SOCIAL, OR OTHER DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS GROUPS. BRAZILIANS OF JEWISH FAITH OR ORIGIN ARE ACTIVE IN ALL FIELDS UNDER CONDITIONS OF FULL EQUALITY; THEREFORE, IT IS IMPROPER TO IMPUTE TO BRAZILIAN SOCIETY OR TO ITS GOVERNMENT ANY RACIST OR DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDES. (D) BRAZIL HAS NO COMMITMENTS WITH ZIONISM. BRAZIL RECOGNIZES ISRAEL AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE SINCE ITS CREATION BUT DOES NOT CONCEDE THAT ITS RECOGNITION DEPENDS ON ITS ACCEPTANCE OF ZIONIST THESES. RECOGNITION OF SOVEREIGN STATE AND THE MAINTENANCE OF CORRECT, EVEN FRIENDLY, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH IT DOES NOT IMPLY AN ACCEPTANCE OF THE DOCTRINES OR IDEOLOGIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE LED TO OR JUSTIFIED THE HISTORIC FACTS OF THE CREATION OF THAT STATE. (E) FOR POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS NOT ALL MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ACCEPT ZIONIST IDEAS. MANY REJECT THEM AND DO NOT, AS A CONSEQUENCE, LOSE THEIR RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC JEWISHNESS; THEREFORE THE CLAIMED IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM CANNOT BE MADE. (F) BRAZILIAN VOTE MEANS BRAZIL DOES NOT SUPPORT ZIONISM AS A RACIAL OR EXCLUSIVIST DOCTRINE. BRAZIL DOES NOT WISH TO BE INDUCED TO ACQUIRE, CONTRARY TO ITS NATIONAL TRADITIONS, ANY TYPE OF RACISM. ALL BRAZILIANS HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AND DUTIES. BRAZILIAN SOCIETY HAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CAPACITY TO ABSORB AND INTEGRATE WITH EQUALITY PEOPLE FROM EVERY CONTINENT. BRAZIL DOES NOT SEPARATE OR SEGREGATE ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS, OR LINGUISTIC MINORITIES. BRAZILIAN CITIZENS WOULD FIND IT DISAGREEABLE TO FIND THAT THERE EXISTS AMONG THEM THOSE WHO FEEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORE CLOSELY TIED TO RACE OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN THAN TO BRAZIL ITSELF. (G) BRAZIL DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS A PARALLEL BETWEEN ISRAEL'S PRESENT SITUATION AND COLONIAL QUESTIONS. THE ESSENCE OF THE COLONIAL PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE ASPIRE TO INDEPENDENCE. THE STATE OF ISRAEL WAS CREATED ALMOST 30 YEARS AGO. ZIONISM, THEREFORE, EVEN IF CONSIDERED A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, IS

HISTORICALLY EXHAUSTED.

3. BRAZIL DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN VOTE CONCERNING TWO RESOLUTIONS ON PALESTINE AND ON ACCREDITING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATES ON THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE INTERPRETATION OF THE TEXT WAS NOT CLEAR. STATEMENT READ BY THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR POINTS OUT THAT, WITH RESPECT TO RESOLUTIONS A/L 768/REV. 1 AND A/L 770, "THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WISHES TO RECORD THAT, THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AFFIRMED ON REPEATED OCCASIONS THAT IT RECOGNIZES THE LEGITIMATE AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOVEREIGNTY. WE CONSIDER THE EXERCISE OF THOSE RIGHTS BY THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION. ANY OTHER SOLUTION WOULD BE ILLUSORY AND SERVE ONLY TO WORSEN THE PROBLEM".

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4. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR CRITICISM OF THE ANTI-ZIONIST VOTE. IN ITS FOURTH EDITORIAL (NOVEMBER 12) ON THE SUBJECT ENTITLED "VICTORY OF RACISM," RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL LAMENTED THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION AS A BLOW AGAINST ISRAEL, AN EROSION OF THE UN'S PEACEKEEPING ROLE, A DIMINUTION OF THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND A MISCONSTRUING OF THE CONCEPT OF RACISM. THE EDITORIAL CONDEMNED RECENT TENDENCY OF BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY TO CREATE ILLUSORY SLOGANS SUCH AS "RESPONSIBLE PRAGMATISM". NOTHING, SAYS THE EDITORIAL, INCLUDING PRESSURES FROM A PETROLEUM CARTEL, JUSTIFIES THE ABANDONMENT OF TRADITIONAL BRAZILIAN PRINCIPLES OF RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS QUALITY AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IN ITS THIRD MAJOR EDITORIAL ON THE SUBJECT (NOVEMBER 12) ECHOED THE JORNAL DO BRASIL'S ATTACK, STATING THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRAZILIAN VOTE, WHICH WAS CAST TO APPEASE THE ARABS AND IN CONTRAVENTION OF BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OPINION, WAS "DIRTY INTERNATIONAL INJUSTICE" AND WAS NEITHER PRAGMATIC NOR RESPONSIBLE. EDITORIAL PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEW BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY AT FEET OF FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA. CALLING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ARGUMENTS IN DEFENSE OF THE NOTE "PERVERTED, AMBIGUOUS AND DISTORTED," THE EDITORIAL STATES THAT POLICY OF "ECUMENICAL PRAGMATISM" IS NO LONGER DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE "INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY" OF PRESIDENTS JANIO QUADROS AND JOAO GOULART. EDITORIAL ACCUSED FOREIGN MINISTER OF "MEXICANIZING" BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY (INDEED EDITORIAL WAS ENTITLED MEXICANIZATION OF DIPLOMACY) BY ADOPTING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S MODEL. FOR GOOD MEASURE THE EDITORIAL CLOSED BY CRITICIZING BRAZIL'S PRECIPITOUS RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA IN ANGOLA POINTING OUT THAT SOVIET AND CUBANS ARE BUSY TRYING TO IMPLANT COMMUNISM AND SOVIET POWER THERE ON THE VERY BORDER OF BRAZIL'S GEOPOLITICAL AREA OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

5. ON NOVEMBER 13, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO RETURNED TO THE ATTACK WITH AN EDITORIAL THAT REITERATED ITS EARLIER CRITICISM OF THE ANTI-ZIONIST VOTE, ANGOLAN RECOGNITION AND BRAZIL'S APPARENT SWING AWAY FROM ITS TRADITIONAL FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO KEEP COMPANY WITH SOCIALISTS, DICTATORS AND THE THIRD AND FOURTH WORLDS. THE EDITORIAL ALSO ARGUED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS A CLEAR

BREAK WITH THE PREVIOUS FOREIGN POLICY OF THE
REVOLUTION AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, AT SHARP VARIANCE
WITH THE MILITARY'S OPTIC OF THE WORLD. IN SHORT,
THE MILITARY STILL FOCUSES ON EAST-WEST TENSION
WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTER SUBORDINATES THAT CONCERN
TO THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND UNDER-
DEVELOPED WORLDS. EDITORIAL THRUST HOME ITS POINT
BY OBSERVING THAT IF BRAZILIAN INTELLECTUALS AND
JOURNALISTS HAD AS MUCH SYMPATHY FOR THE POSITION OF
THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR SATELLITES AS BRAZILIAN
DIPLOMACY DOES, THEY WOULD SOON HAVE PROBLEMS WITH
THE SECURITY SERVICES.
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6. OTHER NEWSPAPERS HAVE NOTED IN COMMENTING ON
BRAZIL'S VOTE THAT, AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS,
BRAZIL WAS ISOLATED ALONG WITH CUBA AND MEXICO.
OTHERS SIMPLY LISTED THE COUNTRIES WHICH
VOTED ON THE RESOLUTION THUS QUIETLY REVEALING THE
COMPANY BRAZIL KEPT ON THE VOTE.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, DURING A SWEARING-IN
CEREMONY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ON NOVEMBER 11, EXPLAINED
THAT BRAZIL HAD TO SPEAK "AUTHENTICALLY" AND WITH ITS
"OWN VOICE" IN RESPONSE TO "LEGITIMATE AND NATIONAL
MOTIVATION." HE ALSO IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT
STATES HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO RESPECT THE AUTHENTIC
DECISIONS OF THEIR NEIGHBORS. THIS IS INTERPRETED
BY THE PRESS AS A CLEAR ALLUSION TO THREATS OF
REPRISALS.

8. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS BEING HELD
PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LATEST BOW BY
BRAZIL TOWARD THE ARABS AND IS CLEARLY FEELING THE
HEAT. THE SHIFT TO A POLICY OF "EQUIDISTANCE" (I.E.
AWAY FROM ISRAEL AND TOWARD THE ARABS), SINCE ITS
ADOPTION IN 1974, HAS NEVER BEEN POPULAR WITH
POLITICAL CLASS OR THE PRESS, THOUGH CRITICISM HAS
BEEN CAUTIOUS BECAUSE OF RECOGNITION OF BRAZIL'S
DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL. THE VOTE AGAINST ZIONISM,
CONVERGING WITH SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL BRAZILIAN
DECISIONS ON OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND
TOUCHING A DEEPLY EMOTIONAL CHORD, HAS CALLED
FORTH A STORM OF MEDIA CRITICISM. NEVER TAKEN
WITH THE HEAVY THIRD WORLD EMPHASIS IN SILVEIRA'S
FOREIGN POLICY, THE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO HAS SEIZED
ON THE UNPOPULAR ANTI-ZIONIST VOTE TO SEEK TO
EXPLOIT DISSATISFACTION WITH SILVEIRA'S PERFORMANCE
AMONG THE MILITARY AND IN CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES.

MOST TELLING ARE ITS POINTED COMPARISONS OF
SILVEIRA'S POLICIES WITH THOSE OF DISCREDIED
PRE-REVOLUTION POLITICIANS, ITS OBSERVATION THAT
THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ARE AT VARIANCE WITH
THOSE OF THE MILITARY AND ITS REMINDERS THAT BRAZIL'S
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POLICIES ARE THROWING IT WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY
INTO THE COMPANY OF STATES WITH WHOM IT HAS NO
IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY.
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